



GRAIN TRANSPORTATION REPORT

Shipper and Exporter Assistance Program
Transportation and Marketing
Agricultural Marketing Service
United States Department of Agriculture

December 22, 1997

NOTE: The *Grain Transportation Report* will not be issued on Dec. 22 or Dec. 29. Pages 3 and 4 will be available on the fax back system and also on the Internet. We wish all our readers a very safe and Happy Holiday Season.

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WEEK
ENDED

1997

COMPARABLE WEEK
1996

INSPECTIONS FOR EXPORT

1,000 Bushels

Nov 13	96,038 *	116,805
Nov 20	91,349 *	108,402
Nov 27	83,598 *	116,973
Dec 4	88,979 *	92,479
Dec 11	89,286	109,281
Calendar Year to Date	3,588,966 *	4,137,194

* Revised

RAIL CARLOADINGS

Carloads

Nov 15	24,696 *	30,512 *
Nov 22	25,383 *	27,044 *
Nov 29	19,571 *	21,802 *
Dec 6	26,165 *	26,821 *
Dec 13	25,491	27,769
Calendar Year to Date	1,167,206 *	1,200,680 *

* Revised - Soo Line Not Included

RAIL DELIVERIES TO PORT

Carloads

	North Atlantic	So. Atlantic & Gulf	Pacific Coast	North Atlantic	So. Atlantic & Gulf	Pacific Coast
Nov 12	66	3,253	5,573	46	4,408	6,315
Nov 19	149	2,768	5,814	63	3,911	5,914
Nov 26	75	2,830	4,934	54	3,371	4,596
Dec 3	73	1,755	4,263	44	2,545	3,950
Dec 10	12	1,946	4,922	28	2,866	4,855
CY to Date	2,441	114,497	187,117	2,879	144,133	192,667

* Revised

BARGE GRAIN MOVEMENTS

1,000 Tons

River / Lock Number	Week ending 12/13/97					Week ending 12/14/96				
	CORN	WHT.	SOY	OTHER	TOTAL	CORN	WHT.	SOY	OTHER	TOTAL
Miss./15	2	0	0	0	2	93	0	2	0	95
Miss./25	164	2	96	5	266	427	8	56	0	491
Miss./26	497	53	201	11	761	882	8	162	0	1,052
Miss./27	528	67	220	11	826	964	8	131	0	1,103
Ill. /8	327	6	90	6	429	319	0	96	0	416
Ohio /52	21	24	38	43	126	40	0	41	87	168
Ark./1	0	14	23	0	37	0	18	15	0	33

Calendar year totals for Miss./27, Ohio/52 and Ark./1:

Year	Corn	Wheat	Soybeans	Other Grains	Total
1997	28,817	2,631	9,226	3,223	43,896
1996	33,408	2,296	7,987	3,964	47,655

Other grains include barley, sorghum and oats. Totals may not add due to rounding. Data source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

MAJOR EXPORT SALES **1,000 Metric Tons*

WEEK ENDED	1997			COMPARABLE WEEK 1996		
	WHEAT	CORN	SOYBEANS	WHEAT	CORN	SOYBEANS
Nov 13	3,996	7,810	7,099	3,382	13,971	7,468
Nov 20	4,236	7,673	6,632	3,152	13,329	7,242
Nov 27	4,299	7,565	6,307	2,666	12,272	6,708
Dec 3	4,136	7,459	6,009	2,653	11,497	6,745
Dec 10	4,003	6,921	5,938	2,528	10,623	6,408

*Unshipped Balances-Current & Next Marketing Year

GULF COAST OCEAN GRAIN VESSELS

		IN PORT	LOADED 7 DAYS	DUE NEXT 10 DAYS			IN PORT	LOADED 7 DAYS	DUE NEXT 10 DAYS
Nov	20	29	54	73		67	48	57	
Nov	27	34	54	89		43	44	66	
Dec	4	44	59	75		50	52	76	
Dec	11	37	54	67		46	54	73	
Dec	18	31	58	67		61	50	54	

AVERAGE GRAIN PRICES*Dollars Per Bushel*

		WHEAT	CORN ¹	SOYBEANS ²			WHEAT	CORN ¹	SOYBEANS ²
Nov	14	3.97	2.79	7.34		4.88	2.76	6.95	
Nov	21	3.83	2.75	7.16		4.93	2.72	7.11	
Nov	28	3.83	2.74	7.14		4.89	2.78	7.14	
Dec	5	3.85	2.72	7.02		4.74	2.71	7.01	
Dec	12	3.83	2.71	7.04		4.77	2.70	6.95	

(Wheat-#1 HRW-ORD., Kansas City; Corn-#2 Yellow, Chicago; Soybeans-#1 Yellow, Chicago)

¹ Bought to arrive 15 days; ² Bought to arrive 30 days.**OCEAN FREIGHT RATES****Dollars/Tons - Basis Vessel Size/Ton*

U.S. Loading Port	Destination	Estimated Freight Rates	Dates of Movement
Gulf	Japan	\$21.00 - \$23.50(54M)	December/January.
Gulf	Egypt	\$13.50 - (47M)	Prompt
Gulf	Holland	\$11.75 - (55M)	December
St. Lawrence	Argentina	\$18.50 - (27M)	Prompt
Gulf	Antwerp/Rotterdam/ Amsterdam	\$12.00 - (50M)	January

*These ocean fixtures are based on full ship charters.